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BABY DELIA SHOCKS THE ROYAL NAVY

By JOHN SANDIFORD

A TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD sailor sat at home on "indefinite unpaid leave" last night while the Royal Navy pondered the problem of baby Delia.

Baby Delia—two-year-old daughter of sailor Stephen Gaitens—astounded the officers and delighted the crew when Gaitens reported back to his ship after leave.



Sailor Stephen Gaitens and two-year-old Delia at their home last night.

For Electrical Mechanic First Class Gaitens marched up the gangway of Her Majesty's cruiser Blake at Devonport, Plymouth—with his baby in his arms.

The master-at-arms was flabbergasted. When he recovered his voice he roared: "You can't bring a baby aboard."

Alone

Gaitens explained: "My wife is ill and there is no one to look after Delia."

Delia was taken to the ratings' mess and Gaitens was marched before his divisional officer.

After three hours officers ordered that the baby must leave the ship and gave Gaitens forty-eight hours' compassionate leave to take her home and report back to his ship—alone.

That was on Monday. But yesterday sailor Gaitens was still with his twenty-two-year-old wife, Marie, Delia and their other child, seven-month-old Tony, at their flat in East-drive, Brighton.

Phoned

He said: "I telephoned my ship and told the divisional officer that if I came back I would have to bring Delia with me again as the position here is still the same."

"I phoned back in an hour and was told that I was on indefinite unpaid leave."

His wife, he explained, was ill with a nerve disorder and could not be left alone at night.

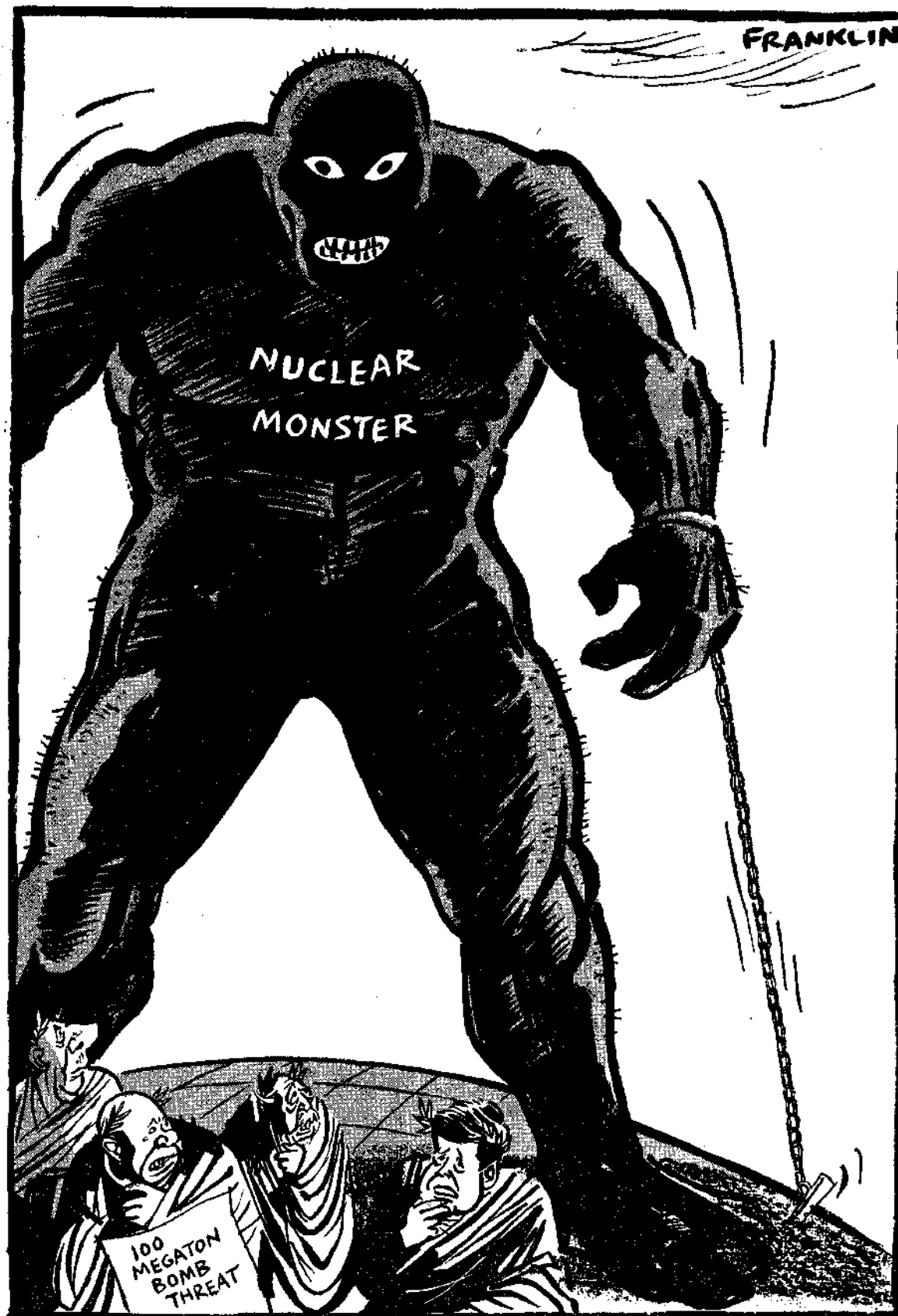
He took Delia to his ship so that his wife could stay with Tony at a relative's home.

"A few months ago I applied for a compassionate discharge from the Navy on the grounds of my wife's nervous troubles," he said. "But it was turned down."

Last night's news about the

H-MONSTER

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Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves

JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I, SCENE II

Labour attack on pay freeze

MR. GAITSKELL and other Labour leaders last night tabled a motion of censure on the Government.

The motion will be debated on Monday. It condemns the Government's action in interfering with normal wage agreements and arbitration awards, especially in the case of the teachers, who had an agreed award of £17,500,000 reduced to £12,000,000.

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